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no 779

Christian Counsel

AND

ADVICE

UNTO

The Rulers and People

OF

ENGLAND;

Given unto all such who have not yet
shed out their day of Blessed Visitation from God,
which he in his infinite love and mercy hath held forth, and
is holding forth unto the Children of men, throughout all
Kingdoms of this World.

With Christian Counsel, and good Advice, against that
ever crying Sin, and most abominable Transgression of
persecuting men about Religion, for the answer of a good
Conscience towards God. Presented unto all that bear
Rule in Ecclesiastical Affairs now in the Church of England.

By a Servant of the Lord (whom he hath raised up among
many Brethren to make mention of his Name in Righte-
ousness, and to hold forth the Testimony of his Everlast-
ing Gospel unto all Nations, as the Lord orders.)

John Higgins.

*... upon precept, line upon line, hath the Lord in his infinite mer-
cy sent unto you, Oh ye Rulers and people of England.*

Printed in the Year, 1663.

Christian Counsel

AND
ADVICE

The Rulers and People
OF
ENGLAND

With unto all such who have not yet
found out their way of blessed Salvation from God
which he in his infinite love and mercy hath held forth and
promised to all who will turn to him and follow him
throughout the whole of this World
The Christian Counsel and Advice of the
most famous and most accomplished Transcendental
Protector of the true Religion for the safety of a good
Conscience to every Good Christian unto all that bear
Rule in Ecclesiastical Affairs and in the Church of England
in respect of the Lord (whom I have called my Master)
many times to make mention of his Name in a public
manner, and to hold forth the testimony of his Faith
in Gospel unto all Nations as the Lord directs)

Printed in the Year 1663.

Christian Counsel and Advice unto the Rulers and People of England, &c.

Let a Christian Spirit of moderation appear among you all, Oh ye Rulers and People of *England*; for not in our own name, but in the Name and Spirit of the Lord God Everlasting is my appearance unto you all at this time, that you may come certainly to be informed, and come to know and understand what the Lord our God hath done, and what he is a doing in this the day of his blessed appearance and visitation, even with the tender of Eternal Salvation unto all the sons of men in *General*. Be ye therefore moderate, Oh ye wise men and flourishing in knowledge, that the *nobility* of your understandings may come to be opened, and ye come in the light of the Lord Jesus Christ to see, and to behold this most *Excellent* mystery of Eternal Salvation unto all your immortal souls, and also the *blissfulness*, *peace*, and *prosperity* of you all (as men) throughout all the *Kingdoms* of this world.

And now in this the Lord hath opened my heart, and I shall make mention of his Name in righteousness, showing unto all people of the large and *Universal* love of God unto all the sons of men in general, That as all have followed the first *Adam* into sin and Transgression against God their *Creator*, and so are become degenerated into a strange spirit, and a contrary nature against God: even so in like manner, *Christ Jesus* the Son of God, the *second Adam*, the Lord from heaven, who is a *quickening spirit*, he is appeared, and is appearing to lead all his followers back again out of the sin, out of the transgression, and out of the state of degeneration, and to give unto every one a *right spirit*, and make them partakers of his heavenly *divine* nature; And this is he whom the Father hath freely rendered unto all the sons of men, and hath sent him a light into the

world, that whosoever believes in his Name, and follows him (who is the Light, and the Truth, and the Way to the Father) shall not abide in darkness, and captive under sin and transgression, and in the state of degeneration; but all that through faith and obedience comes to follow him who is the true Light and Power that proceeds from the Father, he is to them all the *Author of eternal salvation*, and that through faith and obedience unto his spiritual Rule and Government, which is to be known in every one; and thus he is become the *Captain of our salvation*, our Leader and Commander, and by his spiritual rule and government in all them that believe, he leads them out of sin and transgression, and out of the state of degeneration, and so from under the wrath and condemnation, and brings into favor with God again.

Now then, unto his name and power and spiritual Government must every soul be subject, and this is that which the Lord God Everlasting requires of every one, to be made Conformable in faithful obedience unto the Rule and government of Christ's spirit, and light and life manifested in measure in every man; for behold this is the day wherein he is to be proclaimed Lord of Lords, and King of Kings, and under his Rule and government spiritually must all the Kings and Princes, and great Potentates of the earth be made subject, and his Kingdom shall be over all the Kingdoms of this world, and he is come and coming to Rule and to Reign in his Kingdom in truth and in Righteousness, and he Rules according to the good will and pleasure of the father in all things, even in all who are faithful and obedient to the Rule and government of his righteous Son; so that by him Kings must Reign, and Princes decree Justice, and he is to be head & to have the preeminence in all things, and this is his privilege, & prerogative given unto him of the father, and he will not give it unto another; wherefore it was said in a certain place—*Bring those mine enemies: that would not that I should Reign over them, and slay them before me.*

And now (certainly) this is the day of God's Controversy with his Enemies, and the seed of the Serpent, the power of darkness, who is called the Devil, is to be cast out; for in the night of darkness and day of Apostasy he has been exalted, and he

Reled in the hearts of all the children of disobedience, in all unrighteousness and sin against God; and this is he who hath been the author of all *Mischief*, wickedness, and abominations both in publique and in private, that hath been, and that is committed among all the Sons of men; for his Rule and government in the hearts of the children in disobedience, has been continually in the Enemy against God, and against all the real appearances of Godliness; and this is he who hath led all the Sons of men into the error from God, and hath exalted himself in the Temple of God, and shewing himself as if he were God, by his rule and Authority in the hearts of all the children of disobedience, who have been and are disobedient to Christ the true light and power of God, who is the captain of eternal salvation unto all that obey & follow him in Righteousness.

And this is he who hath appeared to set up his Kingdom in these latter daies in the hearts of the children of men, that from his Throne Righteousness, and truth, and equity may flourish and be advanced throughout all Nations, and in all the Kingdoms of men upon the face of the whole earth.

Now it is most certain, clear, and evident, how that the power & Kingdom of darkness and Antichrist hath been Advanced among all the Sons of men, and that the hearts of all the children of disobedience have been subjected to the power of darkness; the Prince of the power of the Air; this needs no further proof then the sad and grievous abominations which have been, and are committed in this part of the world called *Christendom*, which are the evident signes and tokens, that the power of darkness (who is the Devil) Rules in the hearts of all the children in disobedience, whose souls are not subject to the Light and power of God; and so it is he that hath been the Author and Original cause of all Transgression and abominations, and blindness of heart that is among the Sons of men, through subjecting the mind unto his power, who hath wholly corrupted man's ways before the Lord; and in this state man is holy dis-abled to do any thing for his maker, untill his mind and his heart comes again to be turned from the darkness, and from the power of it unto the true light and power of the Lord Jesus Christ, who is onely and alone (through faith and obedience to his name and power) sufficient

for

for to *Ransom* men from the *Bondage* and *Servitude* of the *Devil*, the power of darkness, and to give and to enable men with *ability*, power, and *sufficiency* to serve and to worship the Lord God *Acceptably*.

So now for this end is *Repentance* preached unto all the *Sons* of men, that their hearts may be turned and converted from the darkness, and from the power of it, unto the light and power of the Lord Jesus Christ manifested in them, thereby to be led and ordered in their duty, and obedience, and worship towards the Lord, and in love and unity and fellowship one towards another. And behold this is he that comes to work a *Reformation* in the *Nations*, and among the *Sons* of men, through converting their hearts from the darkness and power of it, unto the power of God in the light, whereby men's hearts which have been clouded with darkness and ignorance, comes to be opened, and to be brought to an understanding in the light of the knowledge of God, and to be gathered into favor and communion with God, through the working and operation of the sanctifying spirit and life in Christ Jesus, who is the power of God unto salvation, unto all them that believe.

And thus, and after this manner will the Lord *Replenish Nations*, even by the word of his power manifested in them, thereby to be converted and changed in heart, and mind, and soul unto God again, into his *Image* in truth and righteousness and true holiness, without which none shall see the Lord.

Now then, this is *Christian counsel* and advice, and sound doctrine unto the *Rulers* and people of these *Nations*, and that which shall be answered by Gods *Witness* in all consciences, whether men will hear or forbear; all are called to *Repent* of their disobedience against God in the measure of his spirit & power manifested in them which is the great and *Universal* sin and *Transgression* which men are *Guilty* of, from the highest, to the lowest, *Rich*, and *poor*, *bond*, and *free*, *professors*, and *Prophane* are found *Guilty* of this sin of disobedience against the light and power of God made manifest in them. Oh! how have men (in the darkness of Ignorance) slighted, contemned, and *Blasphemed* the worthy name of the Lord by which we are called; and so far have men been erred from the good order and Government of the true Light, and power of God, that

hath been even a desision in their hearts, and their tongues have uttered *Blasphemy* against God, and them that dwell in heaven.

Wel, But surely it shall not always be thus, for the Lord our God is daily making himself manifest in his *Light*, and *Power*, and *Glory*, and *Wisdom* among all them that believe; and so at the brightness of his appearance shall the wicked be *ashamed* and *confounded*; and break their *Idols* to peeces, and many shall come tumbling with broken hearts before the Lord, because of their disobedience to the true *Light* and *Power* of God manifested in them. And this is the *humility* that goes before the honour, even the *humility* of mans heart and soul unto the power of God in the *Light*; and this is that which shall be the glory of all *Scriptures*, & the beauty of all *Kingdoms*, & the establishing of *Nations* in *universal peace*, and men shall be abundantly blessed of God, and they shall be a blessing one unto another in the new and Everlasting Covenant of God, from *generation* to *generation*.

O ye *Rulers* and people of *England*, that ye had an ear to hear, and heart to understand the *Blessed visitation* of Gods eternal love, and bowels of infinite mercy towards you all; For behold, God hath sent *salvation* unto you, and among you; & now every one that turns from his iniquity unto the Lord, such, even such are received into favour with God, and their former *sins* and *Transgressions* comes to be *blotted out*, and to be remembered no more.

And this is the free love and infinite mercy of the Lord our God, unto all the sons of men without exception, that all through faith and obedience unto God in Christ, the *Light* and the *Truth*, might receive *Remission* of *sins*, and a portion and inheritance among the *saints* in *Light*; and herein the Lord God the Creator of Heaven and Earth, who formed man for a purpose of his own *Glory*, thus he comes to be glorified in the work of his own *Eternal power*, and man comes here to be blessed with the inheritance of *Eternal life*, both in this World, and in that which is to come.

And this was even the *design* and *purpose* of God in the first *Creation*, who hath given unto man (above all other Creatures which the Lord hath made) a measure of his *Divine Light* and *Spirit*, for to order man right in all holy obedience unto his Maker;

But

But this, even this Spirit of Light and Life from God, the Lord of men has even lost, and so has forgotten the Lord, *days without number*; and this Spirit of God is grieved and daily oppressed, *as a cart is pressed with sheaves*, and now this man's degeneration, erring from the Light and Spirit of his Maker, and sin is become dead unto God in all his ways and courses: and here man having lost his guide, run on in the darkness of ignorance into sin and transgression against his Maker, and so posits on unto eternal perdition, and perishes worse then the *Beasts*, without an understanding.

And now, though sin hath thus *abounded*, yet behold the love of God in Christ doth much more *abound*, who has given him for a *Covenant*, and a *Light* to the *Gentiles*, and the glory of his people *Israel*; and him hath the Lord appointed for a *Leader* and *Commander* unto all the children of men, for to lead them by his Eternal Light and Spirit out of the Fall, and out of the state of degeneration, and to be Regenerated in truth and righteousness unto God again, wherein God is glorified, and man blessed with the Light of God's countenance in the everlasting Covenant of endless life, and blessings for ever and ever.

And unto this state of heavenly *blessedness*, is the Lord God freely inviting all the sons of men, that they may turn from the darkness unto the Light, and from Satan's power unto the power of God the *Creator* of all, that man through *faith* and *obedience* may come to be *blessed*, with the *blessing* of eternal life.

Furthermore, the Lord God of heaven and earth, for his glory and honours sake, doth now command and require all men, as well the *King* on the *Throne*, as the *lowest* of men, to bow their hearts, and submit their souls in all holy *obedience* and *conformity* unto the *guidance*, *rule* and *government* of the Light and Spirit of *Christ*, that he may rule as *King* in the hearts of all the children of men, in all *nations* and *countries* upon the face of the whole *Earth*, and his *Kingdom* is to reach over all the *Kingdoms* of this world.

And now my friends and Countrymen, both *high* and *low*, *rich* and *poor*, &c. this *obedience* and *conformity* unto the Light and Spirit

of Christ, doth the God of Heaven Command & Require
 of all, even from the highest to the lowest, upon pain and peril
 of Eternal Condemnation, and an utter separation from God,
 and all the Saints in Light.

And these things (O ye *Rulers* and *people* of *England*) have
 deeply entered into the hearts of many *thousands* in this our *na-
 tive* *Countrie*, even in this *Kingdom*, and in the *Islands* & *dominions*
 therunto belonging; and God hath given us an *absolute* *com-
 mand*, and a perfect sence and feeling in our hearts of that which
 he requires of us all; and so in obedience to his heavenly calling,
 many are they who love not their lives unto the death, that God
 may be glorified, and our souls rest in his heavenly blessings from
 hence forth, and for evermore.

And now since the Lord God hath thus called us to *serve* and
 to *worship*, and *Reverence* his holy name, in faithful obedience un-
 to Christ the Light and the truth, O! how hath the seed of the
Serpent raged, and raised war against the Lord, and against his
Anointed; But the Lord our God is with us, and his Blessed pre-
 sence dwells in us, and among us, so that in the godly Resolution
 of our soules we are purposed in the name, and power, and spirit
 of the Lord Jesus Christ to go on and follow the Lamb in righte-
 ousness wheresoever he goes; and thus we are the *Lords*, and at
 the disposings of his blessed spirit to *serve*, and to *worship* him, in
 all godly *fear* and *Reverence*, even all the dayes of our appointed
 time.

And behold, this is but our *Reasonable* duty so to do, and as the
 Lord our God hath engaged us through his infinite love & mer-
 cy, thus to walk in all holy duty and obedience unto him, even
 the same *Obligation* comes upon all, as they wait for an under-
 standing in the light of the Lord Jesus Christ.

But now this is that which grieves the spirit of the Lord, and is
 the *greatest* of *abominations*, that when a man, or a people, doth
 notoriously *neglect* their own duty and obedience unto God, but are
 also *smiling* & ready to devour the obedient children of the Lord,
 who fears and *Reverences* his holy name and power, and dare not
 sin against him.

O! this grieves the Spirit of the Lord, and is that *crying* *sin* and
grievous Abomination which draws down wrath and vengeance
 from

from God upon the wicked, and world of ungodly, as it did in generations past, Oh remember *Sodom*, and what became of the inhabitants thereof, when they persecuted Righteous *Lot*.

And this is of concernment for the King and Rulers of this our Nation, to consider and remember, lest they also perish in Gods wrath and indignation; But forasmuch as God hath put it into their heads to do Justice and to execute judgment in the earth, oh that they might serve God in their generation, and set a stop to the violence of the wicked, who are like unto the wild beasts, often ready to rent and devour the innocent and harmless people that feares the Lord, and dares not sin against him, nor lift up a hand with carnall weapons for to defend themselves, but commits their innocent-cause singly and wholly unto him, who will certainly render recompence, and vengeance unto his enemies, either in this World, or in that which is to come; Oh sad to consider, where shall the wicked and the ungodly appear, who do not onely neglect their own Duty and obedience to God, but are beating their fellow-servants, and smiting with the fist of wickedness, even those that fear God, and walk humbly before him, and cannot run with the wicked into the abominable excess of Riot. Oh! Consider these things ye that forget God and work wickedness, lest he tear you to peeces, and there be none to deliver you; for that for which you cause the innocent to suffer Bufferings, Beatings, and Persecution, with great, and grievous, and long imprisonments; that for which you cause them thus to suffer, ought to be your own duty and obedience unto your Creator, even to fear and to walk humbly with your God, and to wait upon him in his light, and counsell, and to hate and deny every false way of the wicked; and to be led, and ruled, & ordered by the light and spirit of Christ (the beloved of the father) in all your waies and exercises; this I say ought to be your obedience and practice also, who are causing the innocent, faithful, and obedient children of the Lord to suffer for these things, even for their obedience and duty unto the name, and power, and spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Well, now is the day of the patience and long suffering of the Lord our God, not willing that any should perish in their sins, but that all might repent, & come to the knowledge of the truth, and be saved from the wrath which is to come.

And

And now God in his infinite love and mercy hath lifted up a *flame* in the Nations that all may flow unto him, and may be saved with an eternal *Salvation*, which he hath prepared before the face of all people, and unto him must the gathering of all be, for all the Nations of them that are saved shall walk in the *light* of the Lord, in the new and everlasting covenant of God, where sin and Transgression comes to be blotted out, and man renewed into the image of God again, where he shall give glory and honour unto him that is the *ancient of days*, whose kingdom is an *everlasting kingdome*, and of his *Dominion* there shall be no End,

B. 2.

Christian

Christian Counsel, with good Advice, against that grievous crying sin, and most abominable transgression of Persecuting men about Religion, for the answer of a good Conscience towards God. Presented unto the View and Consideration of the Bishops and Priests, and to all that bear Rule in Ecclesiastical affairs now in the Church of England.

Hearken, and be moderate, Oh ye Bishops, and Priests, and all that bear Rule in Ecclesiastical affaires, or spiritual matters about Religion; and the worship of God,

It is a Christian spirit of *Moderation* that would be a comely Ornament for you all, that ye might shew forth *Christian Moderation* unto all men, not in shew onely, or in a feigned *Humility* before men, for that is indeed *Hypocrisie*; But this we mean is the true *Christian Moderation*, and it is Really so in Gods account, for you all to be humble and low in heart before the Lord, and to do unto all men as you would be done unto; not to lay any *yoakes*, or *Bondage* upon the Consciences of any in matters of Religion, or Ecclesiastical affaires whatsoever; for in so doing, this spirit of *Christian Moderation* would indeed be a very comely Ornament upon you, and would more *beautifie*, and *advance* you in the hearts of all true *Christian*—*Peop le*, then all your *Laws*, and *Carnall Commandements*, and *ungodly impositions*; which many of you hitherto have

have defiled and polluted your selves withall; and this is such a *Monstrous* and filthy garment, not indeed fit for a *Bishop* in the Church of Christ to be cloathed withall.

Now then, this is the thing that lyes chiefly in my heart towards you all, Oh ye *Bishops* and *Priests* in England, &c. Is it a light thing with you to curse them whom God hath blessed, and to shut out and *Excommunicate* those whom the Lord gathers into his favor, and into union, and communion with the Saints in lights? Behold this, and much more, hath been the practice of some of you; and many of God's dear children and servants have been and are cast into *Prisons*, *Dungeons*, and *Holes*; and many suffer the spoiling of their *Goods* and *Estates* because they fear Gods Name, and cannot violate their consciences in bowing down to your *inventions* and carnal commandments, and abominable impositions, which we know in our hearts, and that by the Spirit of the Lord, that he does not Require such things at our hands, which are imposed upon us, upon great pain and penalties, Oh what *Renting*, and *tearing*, and *knocking down* (and casting into *Prisons*, and *holes*) has been of late in our *Christian Meetings* in and about this city of *London*, when not a hand hath been lifted up on our part to defend our selves, being kept out of our own hired houses and Meeting-places, and this we have taken patiently, some having been beaten and knocked down with *Clubs* and *staves*, and yet this has not been all, but men, of war hath been sent amongst us, with their *Swords* drawn in the hand, and their *Guns* charged against a harmless and peaceable people as aforesaid. And this cruel, violent dealing, has been to the great *Terror* and *Astonishment* of the people, who has been *persecutors*, for to see quiet, peaceable, and honest people, so wickedly and maliciously disturbed and abused by armed men as aforesaid, who without having *Regard* either to *age* or *Sex*, have laid on with their *naked swords*, sometimes with the *back* and *broad side*, and sometimes with the *Edge*, and divers has been wounded as *flay'd down* in *Southwark*, and at *Bull and Mouth*, *London*; And the *Soldiers* *Maliciously*, *wickedly*, and on purpose to disturb, discharged their *Muskets* against a company of *Innocent* and peaceable people (men and women) as if they had been charging an enemy in the field; Oh what sad, *inhumane*, *wicked*, and *malicious disturbances* are these! I do now Remember that once there was a *Law*, (an Act

Act of Parliament) against such who came into peaceable Meetings, wickedly, maliciously, and on purpose to disturb, &c. But who knowes what is become of it now. Well, is this the way to teach Religion, oh ye Bishops and Overseers of the Church of England, and is this the means to bring into a uniformity in the worship of God, for to plant the Gospel, and to convert soules to God! surely if this be so, then are ye become more wiser then Paul and his Companions in the Gospel of peace, who said, The weapons of their warfare were not carnal, but spiritual, and mighty through God, &c. And this indeed is our belief, that all true Christian Ministers are yet of the same spirit and mind, and Judgement, as Paul and the primitive ministers of the gospel were in this, to wit, concerning propagating the gospel, not by carnal weapons, nay, nor according to the wisdom of this world, by carnal Laws, and commandments of men, But by the spirit and power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now then the contrary way and practice not running parallel with the Saints of old, with the Bishops and true Christian Ministers in the primitive time, I say not Running parallel with their's, it's to be Judged, denyed, and condemned, as false and erroneous; and runs parallel with Cain, who slew his Brother, and was the first persecutor about Religion that ever we read of; and so here all persecutors may read and understand their descent, and of what stock and Linage they are, even all along from Cain downward, unto this very day.

And now, oh ye Priests and Bishops, &c. Who are flourishing in the pomp and glory of this world, and think not upon the afflictions of the afflicted, but are rather adding tribulation unto the bonds of the Righteous. Well, God, even the living God, wil avenge the cause of his own Elect, and we are to suffer patiently, continuing in well doing, and he that shall come, wil come, and wil not carry, onely in the mean time, in love unto all your immortal soules, we cannot but tel you of these things, that by bringing forth fruits meet for Repentance, you may escape the wrath which is to come, and to this faithful testimony Gods witnes in all consciences shall answer, whether men will hear or forbear.

London the 7th
Month, 1663.

THE END.

J. H.

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